

Beloved Adhyapya:

A question which frequently arises in the mind of the student regarding reincarnation and the Master Jesus is, "Why did the Master not teach it specifically, if it is a part of Esoteric Truth, and if we are to believe it?" -- From the esoteric point of view, it is readily seen why the Master did not stress the Doctrine of Reincarnation in His Mission. Each Cristos who comes to the world has a special mission to fulfill in relation to the evolution of humanity. Osiris taught his people the Arts of Civilization; Krishna taught them Philosophy; Buddha taught the way of Escape from the Bondage of Matter; Abdul Baha taught Social Morality. And if there be those who object to these great ones being ranked with the Master Jesus, as Manifestations of God, and Saviours of Mankind, then esoteric science must agree to differ with them, for it is always taught that all these be brethren, the elder Sons of God, showing forth His Glory in human form for the guidance of mankind. On the other hand, Initiates of the Western Traditions will not agree to the Master being swept aside as merely a good man, who taught according to His Light, nor yet a medium who was used by the Christ Force. The anti-Christian bias of Madam Blavatsky is regrettable, for it has led to a belittling of Christianity amongst students of Occultism, which is not justified by the facts, and leads to disastrous results in practice.

No man who reads history without prejudice can escape from the fact that there has never been any Truth 'once for all,' delivered to mankind. This doctrine went its way, together with the catastrophic concept of Geology. It is the doctrine of Evolution alone which has stood the test of time and facts, and we shall be wise if we apply the conclusion that the Law of Evolution applies to the Spiritual Life of Mankind, as well as the Physical Life.

The Master built upon the foundations of His predecessors and brought to the Temple His own specific contribution. He had a particular task to do in the Cosmic Polarity, and He is called in the Mysteries the Lord of Individuality. The older Faiths, which also had their Divine Founders, each had for his task the development and illumination of a different layer of consciousness.

The very primitive cults, such as Voodoism were Initiators of the sub-consciousness. Loftier cults, such as Hinduism, were Initiators of the Higher Self. The Master's task was to bring regeneration within reach of the common man, and to initiate the individuality, using that work in its technical esoteric sense as the aspect of consciousness, which is built up out of the experiences that fall to our lot between birth and death. It was this lower temporal self that He had to bring into line with Spiritual Life, and link it up with the Eternal Self. The Lower Self is not immortal; no one who is adequately informed in Esoteric Philosophy believes (in the reincarnation of the present individuality,) nor in any historic individuality in the past. The Higher Self alone, which is immortal, and which survives bodily death, is a vehicle of Karma. The Master therefore, having for His task as a Saviour to His epoch, the making of a Way of Salvation for the individuality,) naturally did not teach reincarnation as part of His Mission, because it did not apply to the individuality. The Illuminati of His epoch knew this doctrine, whether they were the Esselian Mystics of Israel, or the Initiates of the Greek, or Egyptian Mysteries; they needed no instruction on this point, being already familiar with it.

But the common man needed to be told that he was a Son of God, and that God loved him, for this was a thing that had never been known to the world before.

It has been said that the Master was well content to allow the doctrine of reincarnation to be forgotten during His epoch, because when overstressed it is productive of much evil, for it tends to inculcate a condition of "laissez-faire," which is disastrous to human progress. The doctrine of reincarnation is the most illuminative of Teachings, when rightly understood, but it is a disastrous doctrine for the ignorant, for unless it is used as a means of evolution it becomes a "folding of the hands in sleep," and the bankruptcy of all physical things comes as a thief in the night.

So, summing up, the esoteric attitude concerning the doctrine of reincarnation in Christianity may be defined as follows: -- Reincarnation was a part of the Mystery Teachings of Israel, of which the Master and His inner group of Disciples were Initiates. It was part of the Inner Teachings of the Christian Faith, until mysticism became divorced from orthodoxy. It is not repudiated by the Roman Catholic Church. The Master did not enlarge upon the doctrine of reincarnation in His public mission, because that mission concerned the salvation of the individuality which does not reincarnate.

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"One of the noblest fruits of Christian discretion is a perfectly ordered and oriented Spiritual Life. The discreet soul has an unfailing sense of proportion; the result is a beautiful Harmony that comes from a clear appreciation of relative values. It excludes all false emphasis upon the mere trappings and fringes of life. It secures a due reward for the small hidden things that are truly great. It gives recreation and wholesome merriment their rightful place as a means to a Holy End. It sets a stern foot upon spiritual eccentricities and extravagances, depressing moods and feverish straining for Heights for which the Soul is not yet ready.

"Yet another fruit of discretion is Stability; Instability is the besetting danger of spiritual genius. It is the distemper of generous, enthusiastic Souls. 'Great harm is done,' says a penetrative writer, 'by the indiscreet fervor which overloads the boat,' and in the great book of Spiritual Wisdom, the Imitation of Christ, we are reminded how 'some unadvised persons, to gain the Grace of Devotion, have overthrown themselves,' a dictum which we can endorse from our own observations. Souls of prophetic insight and soaring aspiration, ever pay for golden moments of Vision with leaden hours of reaction. Repression is the world's clumsy method with its Great Ones, - but Holy Discretion adds to the Prophet's fiery endowment, a stability born, not of inertia, but of the perfect equilibrium of God-centered energies."

"Herman"